

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 14230 211224Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 CU-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 068460

R 211137Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4259

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 14230

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CB

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON STUDENT/TEACHER ACTIVITIES

1. SUMMARY: STRIKING LYCEE TEACHERS IN PHNOM PENH ARE BEGINNING TO DEVELOP A MORE SOLID ORGANIZATIONAL BASE BOTH WITHIN INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS AND ON A CITY-WIDE LEVEL. THE KHMER TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAS A NATIONWIDE MEMBERSHIP, IS ALSO HOLDING ITS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS WEEKEND AND LYCEE STUDENTS HAVE PASSED A MOTION CALLING FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION TO HALT INFLATION. THE ATMOSPHERE, HOWEVER, REMAINS CALM AND THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS AT PRESENT OF PUBLIC DISTURBANCES OR ANTI-GOVERNMENT AGITATION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE PAST WEEK TEACHERS AT MANY OF PHNOM PENH'S LYCEES HAVE HELD MEETINGS TO DRAW UP RESOLUTIONS DETAILING THEIR COST OF LIVING COMPLAINTS AND CALLING UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE SALARIES IN PROPORTION TO PRICE RISES. THE RESOLUTION OF THE TEACHERS OF LYCEE DAUN PENH, ONE OF THE LARGEST, POINTS OUT THAT MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR BASIC NECESSITIES, NOT INCLUDING CLOTHES AND MEDICINES, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 14230 211224Z

AMOUNT TO 38,200 RIELS. A TEACHER WITH FIVE CHILDREN

RECEIVES ONLY 16,000 RIELS IN SALARY AND ALLOWANCES PER MONTH, IT CLAIMS, THUS LEAVING A DEFICIT OF 22,200 RIELS. THE TEACHERS AT DAUN PENH ALSO DECIDED NOT TO RETURN TO WORK UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ENJOY AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF LIVING. TEACHERS AT OTHER SCHOOLS CAME UP WITH SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FIGURES AS A RESULT OF DIFFERENT METHODS OF CALCULATION BUT ALL ARE WITHIN A SIMILAR RANGE.

3. TEACHERS AT MOST SCHOOLS ALSO CHOSE DELEGATES TO A GENERAL MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE LYCEE 18 MARCH ON DECEMBER 20. AT THIS MEETING A CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF TEACHERS AT ALL LYCEES IN PHNOM PENH WAS CHOSEN. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 24. AT THAT TIME, AFTER THE DELEGATES HAVE CONFERRED WITH TEACHERS AT THEIR INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS, A VOTE WILL BE TAKEN ON WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE STRIKE UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION ON THEIR DEMANDS OR TO RETURN TO WORK WITH A FIXED DATE AFTER WHICH THE STRIKE WOULD RESUME IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILS TO ACT TO THEIR SATISFACTION. THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY RESTRAINED AND BUSINESSLIKE AND THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF ANY ATTEMPT TO GIVE THE MOVEMENT A MORE POLITICAL BENT.

4. ANOTHER TEACHERS MEETING, THIS ONE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE KHMER TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, HAS BEEN CALLED FOR DECEMBER 22 AND 23. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO CHOOSE NEW OFFICERS FOR THE ASSOCIATION, WHICH GROUPS PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND UNIVERSITY LEVEL TEACHERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN THE PAST THE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN A CONSERVATIVE, ESTABLISHMENT-ORIENTED ORGANIZATION AND MANY OF THE CURRENT OFFICERS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, ARE EDUCATION MINISTRY OFFICIALS. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THE STRIKE ATMOSPHERE WILL AFFECT THE SELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS BUT THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT A MORE AGGRESSIVE AND INDEPENDENT-MINDED GROUP MAY ASSUME CONTROL.

5. MEANWHILE THE ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY STUDENTS ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 14230 211224Z

DECEMBER 18 PASSED A MOTION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. THIS MOTION NOTES THE CURRENT AGITATION BY BOTH STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ASKS THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE MEASURES TO LOWER THE PRICES OF SCHOLASTIC MATERIALS, KEEP OTHER PRICES AT AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL, AND ESTABLISH A SPECIAL STUDENT PRICE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT.
ENDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM14230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731210/aaaaahhc.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPDATE ON STUDENT/TEACHER ACTIVITIES
TAGS: PINS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005